

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, last week, Congressman STEVE CHABOT and I, as the co-chairs of the Cambodia Caucus, called upon Secretary Tillerson and the administration to prioritize human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Cambodia.

Just days later, Sam Rainsy, the leader of the opposition party in Cambodia, resigned in the face of a proposed bill that would dissolve the opposition party if he continued to lead the party.

This law on political parties would give the government far-reaching powers to suspend political parties at will. I urge the Cambodian National Assembly to set aside this undemocratic law that dangerously moves Cambodia toward being a one-party state, and to allow the Cambodian people to freely choose their own leaders.

#### ONLY CONGRESS HAS THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have just seen a news report that the President may invade Syria with ground troops.

Now, I criticized former President Obama for his actions in Libya, Iraq, and Syria, without seeking authorization from Congress, and leaning on the weak need that these were somehow authorized back in the AUMF after 9/11. This is far beyond the scope of that resolution, which I helped write, so to have a ground invasion of Syria, without authorization from Congress, will trigger the War Powers Act.

Let's be clear: The Constitution says, once we are at war, the President runs the war as Commander in Chief. But it is only the United States Congress that has the power to declare war, authorize war, which this essentially would be.

So the President must come to the Congress and ask for a new Authorization for Use of Military Force before launching any ground invasion of Syria.

#### SEATTLE'S DIVESTMENT FROM WELLS FARGO

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate my hometown, the city of Seattle, on its historic decision to terminate its \$3 billion relationship with Wells Fargo Bank over its financing and support of the Dakota Access pipeline.

Last week, the Seattle City Council voted unanimously to divest from Wells Fargo, making it the first major city to do so.

Led by Native American and environmental activists, our city made an im-

portant statement about the vision that we have for our community and for our world. That vision centralizes both the rights of our native brothers and sisters, and our environment.

Just like it did with the \$15 minimum wage, Seattle continues to be a leader and a model for the rest of the country, and activists and cities around the United States have picked up the torch.

We stand united in prioritizing our environment, as it is deeply connected to the health of our communities. Rather than allowing dangerous pipeline projects to continue, putting millions of people at risk, we should be focused on being leaders in the international fight against climate change.

I am committed, Mr. Speaker, to taking every opportunity to protect our resources and fight for a bold alternative energy plan that includes a just transition that creates great union jobs and puts us on a sustainable path forward.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN MERCER LANGSTON

(Mr. MCEACHIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable John Mercer Langston, who served in the 51st Congress as the first African-American Congressman from Virginia and, incidentally, represented the same district that I do, Virginia's Fourth.

Representative Langston became the fifth African-American man to graduate from the Oberlin Collegiate Department, and continued his education at Oberlin to receive a master's degree in theology.

Although he was deprived of admission to law school, Mr. Langston studied law under Philemon Bliss and passed the bar in 1844 to become Ohio's first African-American lawyer.

Mr. Langston's passion to uplift the Black community was demonstrated through the organization of State and local antislavery societies, his efforts to assist runaway slaves, and through calls for social reform.

Among his many other life accomplishments, Langston also served as the president of what is now known as Virginia State University.

I have great respect and appreciation for Mr. Langston and the life he led. Not only will his legacy live on through his descendants, but through myself and all of us who occupy this great hall who fight for the spirit of equality and justice.

#### RUSSIAN INFILTRATION

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is literally every day now that something new and even

more shocking comes out about the Trump administration and its connections with the Russian Government. Just last night, it was reported that, according to American intelligence officials, at least four members of the Trump campaign, senior members, were in constant contact with Russian intelligence officials for a year.

Mr. Speaker, this is not so much about Republican or Democrat as it is about democracy, our democracy. I want to thank those few Republicans in the Senate who have had the courage to put country before party and come forward and demand an independent, bipartisan investigation. Sadly, that has been met with silence on the Republican side of the aisle in this House.

We must have a 9/11-like commission to investigate to what extent Russian intelligence infiltrated our election.

#### MUSLIM AND REFUGEE BAN

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to read a letter from a Syrian refugee to the interfaith coalition sponsoring his family, which settled in Bloomfield, New Jersey, last month.

Muhammad is a father of four. His family was one of the last to arrive prior to the signing of President Trump's ban.

Muhammad wrote:

I feel ashamed when I repeat the words: Thank you.

I feel it's very few and very weak in front of your interest and your generosity.

The first thing I want to learn in the English language is how I can thank you more and more.

America is beautiful because you live in it.

These are the kind of families the Trump administration wants to turn away. They are the oppressed and the persecuted, the kind of people this country was founded for.

I understand the need to vet people coming to our country, and the importance of protecting our Nation's security. No one questions that at all.

But we cannot close our country to refugees like Muhammad and his family. We cannot sacrifice what it means to be American.

Muhammad is right, America is beautiful, and we can keep it that way by remaining a beacon of freedom and hope.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Member on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: